providing programming information from the central control node to an interactive station controller, the programming information including at least the identities of a plurality of available programs;

providing summary information from the central control node to an interactive station controller, wherein the summary information is associated with at least one of the available programs and comprises display imagery including one or more of a still image, a plurality of images, a video segment of less than the entire program, or the current broadcast of the program;

storing the programming information at the interactive station controller;

storing the summary information at the interactive station controller;

accessing the programming information and displaying the programming information in the programming guide on the video display;

obtaining a user selection indication corresponding to programming selected by the viewer from the programming guide;

accessing in response to the user selection indication the summary information relating to the programming selected by the viewer; and

displaying the program summary information.

25. (**Amended**) The method of claim 21 in which the displaying of the summary information includes displaying the display imagery in a preview display window.

27. (**Amended**) The method of claim 21 in which the selected programming is transmitted from the central control node when the programming is selected by the viewer and the video segment includes the transmitted selected programming.

31. (**Amended**) In an interactive video system having a central control node in bidirectional communication with plural viewer stations that include video display sets operably coupled to interactive station controllers, the central control node delivering video programming over multiple channels to the plural viewer stations and receiving information from the interactive station controllers, the system including a programming guide from which viewers select programming, a method of displaying for a viewer summary information relating to programming included in the programming guide, comprising:

obtaining from the central control node programming summary information that relates to programming available to a viewer, the program summary information including at least a plurality of images, each image being related to at least one of the available programming;

storing the programming summary information in a memory associated with the interactive station controller system;

obtaining an indication of programming selected by the viewer from the programming guide;

retrieving from the memory the programming summary information corresponding to the programming selected by the viewer from the programming guide in response to the obtained indication, wherein the retrieved programming summary information is the most program-specific information available among a plurality of programming summary information options for the selected programming; and

displaying the retrieved programming summary information for the viewer on a video display set.

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37. (**Amended**) In an interactive video system having a central control node in bidirectional communication with plural viewer stations that include video display sets operably coupled to interactive station controllers, the central control node delivering video programming over multiple channels to the plural viewer stations and receiving information from the interactive station controllers, the system including a programming guide listing programming available to a viewer, a method of displaying summary information at an individual user station, comprising:

providing from the central control node to the plurality of viewer stations programming information, the programming information including an identification of a plurality of programs currently available from the central control node and an identification of a plurality of future programs that will be available from the central control node at a future time;

storing the programming information at the plurality of viewer stations;

providing from the central control node to the plurality of viewer stations summary information, wherein the summary information is associated with at least one of the available programs and display imagery including one or more of a still image, a plurality of images, a video segment of less than the entire program, or the current broadcast of the program;